

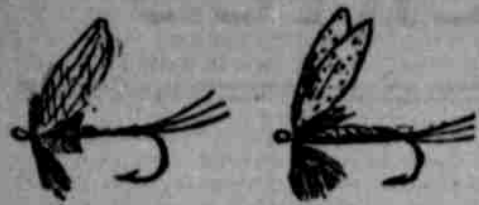
## EVOLUTION OF ANGLING.

SOMETHING NEW FOR AMERICA'S FLY FISHERMEN.

Material Used for the Fly Must be Arranged to Represent Animate Life.

The sporting world is on the eve of a new era in fly fishing.

The fact is not generally known, nor is it yet appreciated save by a few American anglers, that the manufacture of the artificial fly in this country is not only crude and inartistic, but also founded on a theory than which none could be more



SCALE WING MODIFICATION. ENGLISH QUILL.

at variance with scientific teaching, and, perhaps it would be pardonable to say, with common sense.

A glance at a collection of flies, ordinarily to be seen at the tackle-makers, reveals the fact that they are but illustrations of one idea, namely that fish are attracted by color or an admixture of certain tints. We gain also by our inspection another important item, the flies that profess to be imitations of the natural insect reveal by their nomenclature that they are modelled from European ephemerids in fact copies of English manufacture.



FLAT WINGED STONE FLY, IMPROVED IMITATION AND ORDINARY IMITATION, WITH FEATHERS.

Our anglers may be divided into two distinct classes—those who hold the opinion that color and its admixture is the attractive element in the artificial fly and those who maintain that the exact imitation of the insect upon which the fish feed is the great desideratum. Now if the first supposition were a correct one feathers of different colors might be tied haphazard upon a hook, the result being precisely the same as if arranged to imitate an insect. This undoubtedly has proved to be a failure, and the fact that the material must be so arranged that in some degree it represents an animate object gives to the theory that "imitation is the true guide for the fly maker," an argument difficult to overcome. Couple this with the fact that realistic movement must be imparted to the inanimate object and we can readily see how little significance can be attached to the argument of the colorist.

Among the professional anglers of both England and America the axiom, "It matter not the kind of fly, provided



imitation of the blue bottle fly, a natural movement is imparted to it," is believed and accepted. This is undeniably correct. I am not prepared to deny the fact that color does not act favorably upon the nervous organization of the salmonidae, and especially of the salmonidae, but it does so conditionally. First, when it assumes the form of an animate object. Second, when life like movement is imparted to it, the latter condition being paramount to all the rest. An expert angler and a close observer of nature can alone accomplish this most difficult of tasks, and as from want of opportunity and practice the professionals must always constitute the minority, I advance the proposition that the inexperienced angler of the future will look to the fly maker to furnish him with an artificial fly so realistic in appearance that it will in a great measure compensate for his lack of skill.

To gain a clear and comprehensive idea of this subject we cannot deal with it superficially, but we must carefully



ENGLISH FLY, MADE FROM CALCARIOUS FISH SCALE.

consider the conditions under which the feather fly is and has been a success. It is absolutely and actual certain that wild animals become shy and wary in proportion to the amount of hunting and that this instinct is transmitted in an intensified degree to each succeeding generation, is equally a matter of fact. The same rule applies to the salmonidae, in proportion to the amount of fishing, in like ratio, can we measure the intelligence to avoid a lure. The large and clumsy fly of America is comparatively useless in the clear chalk streams of England, simply from the fact that fish are cognizant of the danger that lurks in a glittering object. The American trout is already beginning to evince a decided antipathy to the large and gaudy fly. Brilliant colors no longer transmit pleas-

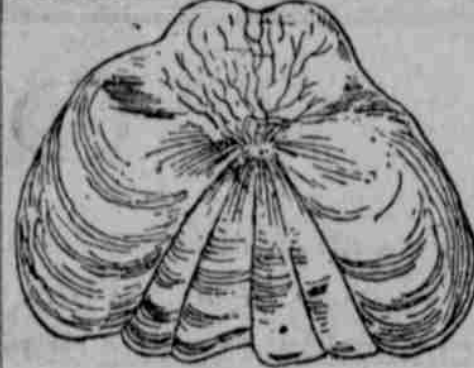
ant sensations through his nerve centres, evoked by a desire to grasp the object. On the contrary, while yet it may continue to be attractive, reflex action, dependent principally upon inherited instinct, is superseding the pleasurable emotion by a more than counterbalancing sensation, the outcome of which is distrust. To illustrate this assertion A



CORK BODIED, FEATHER WINGED, FLOATING MAY FLY.

fish is said to "rise short" when his impetuous career is suddenly arrested, just at the moment he is about to seize the fly. It is so instantaneous that will power cannot possibly be the controller; just as instinctively the human eye closes to avoid the entrance of a noxious body, the movement is one beyond the power of volition. Reflex nervous action is throwing its mantle of protection around the American trout, and it is easy to conjecture that certain modifications must be made in the artificial fly in order to keep pace with his increasing susceptibility.

The feather fly owes its reputation to the fact that in the past it has been successful, and yet continues to be so, in waters far removed from civilizations. There is yet something to be added that tends in a great measure to bolster up its already waning reputation, dependent upon a peculiarity in the fish, the explanation of which, I think, has never been attempted by any writer on the subject. I refer to what I may be allowed to term nervous overflow. At times trout are seized with an irresistible and insane impulse to seize upon anything animate or inanimate. This continues a short time and ceases instantaneously, a clear indication that it is paroxysmal in its character. Laughter in the human being is one of the evidences of nervous overflow; it is paroxysmal, and rapidly communicable from one to another. In the fish nervous overflow assumes the character of playful jumping and grasping at any floating object. In this particular case the feather fly will of necessity play a conspicuous part.



TARPON SCALE.

To construct the appropriate fly we must estimate the present condition of fish. In my opinion in most of the American rivers he is getting tolerably well aware of the fatality of the brilliant and inartistic fly, and is rapidly approaching the condition of his English congener. The time has not yet arrived when it would be wise to entirely abandon the feather fly, nor will feathers ever cease to be of the utmost value in constructing a certain class of insects, of which the moths occupy a prominent place. An artistic fly can undoubtedly be constructed with a feather wing, and the illustration represents one, difficult, if possible, to improve upon, as regards its killing properties.

But we must take into consideration that feathers very indifferently represent the appearance of a large class of insects, the favorite food of the Salmonidae. I refer to the Ephemeridae. The beautiful transparent wing, the smooth and lustrous body is not to be imitated by fur and feather. I hazard the statement, that the correct imitation of a fly upon which a trout is feeding is a better lure than some hideous nondescript, resembling nothing in the material world.



IMPROVED, ORDINARY AND NATURAL.

To meet the requirements of the scale wing and realistic fly, the rod, the line, and the cast must undoubtedly be modified. The tackle must be fine and almost invisible, the rod proportionately modeled, to meet the exigencies of the occasion. It must ever be remembered that, however perfect the imitation, its effectiveness is in a great measure destroyed by imparting to it unnatural movement.

The present system of fly casting is totally at variance with the habits of insect life. The Ephemeridae constitute by far the larger class of insects upon which the Salmonidae feed. They are children of the stream, floating lightly, gracefully and without a struggle on their native element. The failure of the angler is due to the fact that inartistic teaching counsels the tyro to impart to the artificial fly a struggling movement



FLY MADE WITH FISH SCALE MEMBRANE AND IMITATION OF A MOTH.

and a succession of uneven and aimless jumps, at once destroying its effectiveness. The fly fisherman of the future must become an entomologist, with that grand old master, Nature, for his guide.

It will add a new pleasure to the angler's life.

He who loves the smiling face of nature and the music of the rippling stream will find ample enjoyment in the study of the beautiful creatures that people its surface. The manufacture of an artificial fly will become in reality a work of art. The study of nature by its elevating influence must bring us in close communion with nature's God. "Sermons there are in stones," and volumes, I may say, in an insect that lives but for an hour. The beautiful imitation of an Ephemeridae, furnishing us with a brief season of enjoyment, can fittingly remind us how like to human life is the destiny of its plumed and dazzling prototype. To-day, sailing with expanded wing, for a transient hour in the sunshine of prosperity; in a moment dashed by a rude blast of adversity into a resistless stream, bearing it away to an ocean without a shore.—Harry Goss, in N. Y. Herald.

## BATHS FOR WOMEN.

A Plea for Their Construction Below the Level of the Floor.

I crave room, says a correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, to ask that some little consideration be shown for women by those who fit up the baths in our houses. It will be found that there is not one bath in 1,000 or in 10,000 in the placing of which regard is evidenced for convenience and comfort in getting in and out. With few striking exceptions modern baths are placed at far too high a level with regard to the floor line. Ease on the part of the architect, builder, and plumber too often goes before due consideration for the bather. It is no uncommon thing to find a height of little less than three feet from the floor to the marble or wooden top of the bath. The athletic male clammers over this with alacrity, if not dignity, but to womankind I make bold to declare this arrangement is simply barbarous at the gray dawn of the twentieth century. Fancy an academy picture, "Venus Entering the Bath," exhibiting an undignified climber of Brobdignagian stride over near the three feet of mahogany paneling. Even a salon artist, passing clever as he may be in this line of composition, would be nonplussed in his endeavor to portray graceful posing of the figure.

To permit true ease and comfort in entering and leaving the bath, must be sunk below the level of the floor and approached by steps. This is the true type of bath. Theteto the goddess of beauty may approach with that enchanting grace of action so lovingly depicted by painters of antiquity and no less affectionately by those of our own times. Being somewhat expensive and constructed in many positions with some little difficulty the completely sunken bath can not be the proud possession of all; but every one may have the step or stepped platform round the ordinary high level bath. A little forethought and a few shillings' expenditure by our builders at the time of fitting up the baths makes the difference between inconvenience and comfort. In the name of humanity let me plead for the step—only one step. Compared with the low-level baths the comfort attendant upon this simple—and for that reason neglected—addition to the ordinary bath is but little.

## The Jersey Jumping Place.

A section gang were working on the marsh west of Jersey City the other day when a N. Y. Sun man, who had been sniping, came along and called the attention of the boss to some singular looking spots beside the road-bed, and asked the cause. Those spots looked as if the end of a heavy beam had struck the earth, and here and there was a ragged furrow in the dirt. "And you don't know what them spots is?" exclaimed the boss, as he looked up and down the track.

"I do not."

"Well, you'll find them for half a mile each way from this, but this is the favorite spot. All of those were made between dark and daylight last night."

"But how?"

"By tramps jumping off of freight trains. Back there is where the whistle blows for Jersey City. About here is where she slackens up to four miles an hour. Then the tramps begin to leave the bumpers. They jump straight out, and come down with a squish, and though they leave a big hole in the soft ground they receive no hurt. I've seen ten leave the train right here. Blessed good thing for dead beats that the Lord put this marsh so close to town. If we had clay ground here there'd be need of a big hospital, too."

## Great Minds At Sea.

Many of the greatest minds of the world have been upon the ocean, but how few great thoughts have been conceived at sea, says the *Ocean*. Men of the highest genius seem to be transformed as soon as they get at a distance from land in a rolling vessel. There is an inability to control the mind while at sea, a difficulty in concentrating the attention on the task of even writing in one's diary, or reading even the most trifling fiction. From this experience the best disciplined minds are not free. When at home on land they can, without friction or disturbance, carry on mental operations even while many are talking or playing about them; their faculties are so well poised that they obey the word of command, but at sea they can do nothing with the intellect. Were it not for the impossibility of controlling the intellectual forces a ship on a long voyage would be the best conceivable retreat for those who wish to think, or write, or read.

## ATTENTION, SOLDIERS.

Full Text of the Disability Pension Law Passed by Congress and Approved by the President Recently.

Following is the full text of the Disability Pension Bill:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in considering the pension claims of dependent parents, the fact of the soldier's death by reason of any wound, injury, casualty, or disease, which under the conditions and limitations of existing laws would have entitled him to an invalid pension, and the fact that the soldier left no widow or minor children having been shown as required by law, it shall be necessary only to show by competent and sufficient evidence that such parents are without support from their own manual labor or the contributions of others not legally bound for their support; Provided, That all pensions allowed to dependent parents under this act shall commence from the date of the filing of the application hereunder and shall continue no longer than the existence of the dependence.

SEC. 2. That all persons who served thirty days or more in military or naval service of the United States during the late war of the rebellion and who have been honorably discharged therefrom, and who are now or may hereafter be suffering from a mental or physical debility of a permanent character, not the result of their own vicious habits, which incapacitates them for the performance of manual labor in such a degree as to render them unable to earn a support, shall, upon making due proof of the fact according to such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may provide, be placed upon the list of invalid pensioners of the United States, and be entitled to receive a pension not exceeding \$12 per month, and not less than \$6 per month, proportioned to the degree of inability to earn a support; and such pension shall commence from the date of the filing of the application in the Pension Office, after the passage of this act upon proof that the disability then existed, and shall continue during the existence of the same; Provided, That persons who are now receiving pensions under existing laws, or whose claims are pending in the Pension Office, may, by application to the Commissioner of Pensions in such form as he may prescribe, showing themselves entitled thereto, receive the benefits of this act; and nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent any pensioner thereunder from prosecuting his claim and receiving his pension under any other general or special act; Provided, however, That no person shall receive more than one pension for the same period; And provided further, That rank in the service shall not be considered in applications filed under this act.

SEC. 3. That if any officer or enlisted man who served ninety days or more in the Army or Navy of the United States during the late war of the rebellion, and who was honorably discharged, has died, or shall hereafter die, leaving a widow without other means of support than her daily labor, or minor children under the age of sixteen years, such widow shall, upon due proof of her husband's death, without proving his death to be the result of his army service, be placed on the pension roll from the date of the application thereunder this act, at the rate of \$8 per month during her widowhood, and shall also be paid \$2 per month for each child of such officer or enlisted man under sixteen years of age, and in case of the death or remarriage of the widow, leaving a child or children of such officer or enlisted man, under the age of sixteen years, such pension shall be paid such child or children until the age of sixteen; Provided, that in case a minor child is insane, idiotic, or otherwise permanently helpless, the pension shall continue during life of said child, or during the period of such disability, and this proviso shall apply to all pensions heretofore granted, or hereafter to be granted under this or any former statute, and such pension shall commence from the date of application therefor after the passage of this act; And provided further, That said widow shall have married said soldier prior to the passage of this act.

SEC. 4. That no agent, attorney or other person engaged in preparing, presenting or prosecuting any claim under the provisions of this act shall, directly or indirectly, contract for, demand, receive, or retain for such services in preparing, presenting, or prosecuting such claim a sum greater than \$10, which sum shall be payable only upon the order of the Commissioner of Pensions, by the pension agent making payment of the pension allowed, and any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section, or who shall wrongfully withhold from a pensioner or claimant the whole or any part of a pension or claim allowed or due such pensioner or claimant under this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall, for each and every offense, be fined not exceeding \$500 or imprisoned at hard labor not exceeding two years, or both, in the discretion of the court.

## A FORTUNATE CHICAGOAN.

Smiled Upon by the Louisiana State Lottery Goddess to the Extent of \$15,000.

Eternally sticking to it brings success. Young men in Chicago have had this old maxim reeled off to them so often that whatever they engage in they keep at with a persistency bound to be rewarded. If the object sought to be attained is a praiseworthy one so much the better for the young man. The rule applies, whatever be the motive.

The good fortune to-day enjoyed by a young Chicagoan, W. E. Spingenberg, a clerk in E. Schipp's fire insurance agency at 206 La Salle street, may have been in the nature of a reward for persistent efforts, or it may have been simply one of the smiles which Dame Fortune so often sheds on favored residents of the world's fair city.

Be it as it may, Mr. Spingenberg in June invested in a one-fourth interest in ticket No. 59,843 in The Louisiana State Lottery and now has 15,000 cold, hard dollars to show for it, the entire ticket represented by this number being \$600,000. When called on by a Times reporter he was very reticent as to details, but tacitly pleaded guilty to the extent named. His good fortune has become so generally known among his many friends that he is daily the recipient of hearty congratulations and quantities of good advice. Mr. Spingenberg is a sharp, shrewd, young business man and already has his newly acquired fortune invested to good advantage. Riches have by no means turned the young man's head, but the unexpected possession of even this little \$15,000 has given him an idea of the pleasant troubles that riches generally bring with them.—Chicago (Ill.) Times, July 17.

## The New German Rifle.

Technically and mechanically the new repeating gun is declared to be vastly superior to any repeating gun heretofore placed in soldiers' hands. It is exclusively a repeating gun and cannot be utilized as a single loader. Its caliber is only eight millimeters, considerably less than the caliber of the gun it supplants. Its range is 12,500 feet; that is, about 2,600 greater than the range of the old gun. It possesses unequalled power of penetration and sureness of aim. It is very light and is constructed for the use of smokeless powder. It is supplied with cartridges five at a time by means of a tin frame of the Mannlicher pattern. After the fifth shot the frame falls to the ground. The bullet is of the form of a small cross section of a lead pencil, has a lead kernel under a coating of steel and a nickel outside. The barrel of the gun is provided with a mechanical device to keep it cool during firing.

At a distance of 325 feet the bullet penetrates well-seasoned, close-grained firewood to the depth of 32 inches; at a distance of 2,700 feet, to a depth of 10 inches. A brick wall, unless unusually thick, affords no protection against shot from the new gun. Earth breastworks less than two feet and a half thick are also penetrable. In freshly-piled sand, at a distance of 325 feet, the ball sinks three feet; at a distance of 5,800 feet, four inches.

At a distance of 850 feet the new gun is almost absolutely accurate. It is a sure shot at a single kneeling man 1,100 feet away, or at two men kneeling side by side 1,600 feet away, or at two men side by side 2,000 feet away.

From now on even the stoutest trees will give the foot soldier in battle little protection, for the balls from the new gun will simply pass right through the trunks. Six men in a column, each seven paces from the man before him, may be shot through with one bullet, provided that it comes in contact with no metallic substance on the persons of any of them. The advantage that the bullet of the new gun leaves only a small hole behind it is comparatively insignificant. Moreover, should an enemy, as has often happened, defend himself behind a village or court-yard walls, he will be protected only in case the wall is remarkably stout, for balls from the new guns have repeatedly penetrated with ease walls a brick and a half thick. The present re-arming of the German infantry, together with the introduction of the smokeless powder, is of all the re-arming of infantry in this century, the most important. A gun has been introduced which, in every respect, is superior to all other guns.

## 1 Pleasant Sensations.

Sin is ugly, but she knows how to fix herself.

To agree with everybody is almost as bad as not to agree with anybody.

A physician should never idle away his time all day in his office. It's poor practice.

Isn't it rather mean for a man to get everything out of this world and then call it a hollow sham?

The original package conundrum is getting to be almost as perplexing as what constitutes original sin.

A Chinese laundryman in Newark says he thinks "Melican man" has most of his polish on his shirt-front. John has fine irony.

Take note of this, young woman: If you have married a man because of his beautiful, drooping mustache, never have buttermilk on the table at meals.